







executive Police. This power was by Ordinance 14 of 1845 vested in the hands of the Chief Magistrate, but practically it devolved upon the Superintendent of Police, because the Chief Magistrate had no time to attend to the Police. As a fact, there are few Religious or Tournaments, although Religion is often extravagant; though it is often extravagant, it is not so much in relation to the religion of the Chinese as in the institution of "Greenwich Fair" does to the religion of the inhabitants of London. The proper person to judge of the policy of government in respect of the laws, or minor incidents of the letter of the law, is not the Office having the responsibility of preventing disorder and anarchy to the public and real power of preventing the abuse of the indulgence granted.

12.—The various Police Stations suffered a great deal from the loss of the Colonial Fund. The general house at Hongkong has however been well repaired, and will be in good improvement from a sanitary point of view to those attached to most of the Stations. Stanley Station, having, through want of money, been for nearly two years unavailable, was in July last handed back to the Police, but the summer rains soon showed the upper floor to be comparatively uninhabitable from leakage. Subsequently a new one was developed, which plainly shows that the building of the original two years was not carried out sufficiently, with the probable result that it must be taken down and rebuilt before the building is really habitable. At the Water Police Basin, darts and a flight of steps are still wanting, which wait contributes to the deterioration of the boats, and the endangering of the men when on board. The service of married quarters is greatly felt, and the kind of service of married quarters is difficult for men to obtain room with the allowance granted by Government. The health of the water police has improved since the removal of the men from the huts to the station at Kau-lung Point, but Whitfield Station has from the number of cases of fever proved very unhealthy to the occupants. The drains are now being thoroughly repaired, and the undergrowth around cut away, so that the water is now clean, the cause must be attributable either to the exact earth cutting in connection with the neighbouring fort, or to the rapid silting up of the foreshore.

13.—The heavy fall in the value of the dollar, which is now quoted at 3.35, is a matter which must tend to the increase of the cost of the services of the Police Force. It is beyond dispute that the cost of all communication has considerably increased.

14.—I am happy to be able to report that the general conduct of the Forces, as witnessed by the diminished amount of fines and punishments inflicted during the year for breaches of discipline, has been very satisfactory; and that I have received the faithful support of the officers and men in the discharge of their respective duties under my command, that on more than one occasion might have tended to dishearten them—I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant.

W. M. DEANE,  
Captain Superintendent of Police,  
The Honourable Frederick Stewart, LL.D.,  
Acting Colonial Secretary, Esq., &c.

THE KWANGTUNG INUNDATION RELIEF FUND.

We are requested by Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, the Hon. Secretary, to publish the following:

The accompanying report of the relief party, which just returned from Sze-Ui, has been forwarded by the Friends of the Poor Relief Committee. Another copy is at present distributed in the San Shui Si Temple; when it returns, a statement will be published showing the financial position of the Fund, which is almost exhausted.

KELIEN EXPEDITION TO THE SIX DISTRICTS. A second relief party has just visited the villages in the region of Sze-Ui, suffering from the effects of the recent inundation. The relief corps, consisting of J. G. Kerr, Rev. H. Graves, and Rev. W. O. Walker, together with native helpers of the American Baptist and Presbyterian Missions, started from Canton on Thursday, January 19th, with four boats and two launches, the latter having been kindly furnished by the Vicereyn as conveyals to the party. The supplies taken for the sufferers were as follows:— £1,000 worth of garments, at a cost of \$1,200; 500 pieces of cloth at a cost of \$1,200; cash for distribution to the amount of \$340; making, in total, \$1,130.

The party were two days in reaching their destination, as they had to follow the longer route by way of the West River in order to find a channel of sufficient depth for the launches. Arrived at Sze-Ui, a day and a half were occupied in distributing the supplies. The company, separated into three parties, went through the villages giving tickets for rice to the poor. The amount in each case being based as far as could be on the needy condition of the people. These tickets were afterwards brought to the boats, where they were redeemed, the supplies being disbursed with the assistance of the bateman and the soldiers detached to accompany the expedition. The money was for the most part spent on individual articles of distress as they were found to be wanted, a portion of the coats, and a little of the rice. But as rule the distribution of these goods among individuals was delegated to the villagers themselves, as far as better acquainted with the specific cases of need and therefore better able to make a just apportionment than the relief-party could possibly do.

After having relieved eighty-three villages, the party returned to Canton, which they reached on the 23rd instant.

MINING ENTERPRISE IN CHINA. "B. J." writes as follows to the Shanghai Mercury:

From what is seen in the newspapers one would be inclined to think that China is just about to commence a new career, and that her reported immensely rich mineral deposits are going to be opened, mining machinery and railroad introduced, and this aged Empire literally torn to pieces and re-modelled along an entirely new order of things. But the man who has been long in the mining field, and has followed the progress of the last few years, will be slow to accept any such rash conclusions. It is well known that with rare exceptions, the officials are just as anti-foreign as ever, and bitterly opposed to anything of foreign origin that requires the presence of foreigners above them. That railroads will be built and mines worked scientifically in the near future, there is good reason to believe. Within the last few years the number of mines, both of coal, iron, copper, lead, and tin, have been started under special permission from the Emperor. In the province of Hopei alone there were eight companies started; one concern in particular—a coal mine—was very promising, and under proper management would doubtless have been very remunerative. The local propertied would have been quite equal to the American miners in their conduct, but in the early part of the last year, the Chinese Government, in order to prevent the burden of tax on iron, took all the tolls. Money for these enterprises was freely subscribed, and freely spent, but not one has proved remunerative.

There are many reasons why mining in China cannot compete successfully with the same branch of industry in Europe and America. First and foremost China has no mining laws, and, properly speaking, no mining officials. There is no permission from the Emperor, the chief, in many places mines are worked in a small way clandestinely by the local officials. To obtain the requisite permission the influence of which is indispensable, who, when permission has been obtained, fills all the important positions with his own people, and between himself and his friends there is but little left for the shareholders. The local propertied are not willing to be taxed heavily, and from the nature of the animals or men's backs. An iron of the mine is on the great watercourses, this to carry on work on a large scale, becomes almost an insurmountable difficulty. To build a railroad to communicate with the mines would also be a very expensive undertaking, and could only be done by special permission, and at least three years' notice given to the Emperor. The foreigners do not understand these matters, and lose sight of the fact that no enterprise of any kind can be carried out by private individuals or companies. All the mining companies that have started have officials at their heads, generally a Thotai. I knew of one company that had three Thotais managing it; the concern was a lead mine. They managed to spend all the shares held in the mine, but never produced a pound of metal.

A case of very recent date has come to my knowledge where an effort was being made in a small way to introduce the smelting of iron with mineral fuel (all the iron made in China up to

the present time has been made with charcoal). All the preliminary arrangements were settled and the money subscribed, when two of the literati thought it an innovation, and in opposition to the Magistrate charged the parties concerned with doing a great many, diabolical things, conspiring among them being, perverting the fu-gu salt distilling oil, manufacturing devil water (sulphuric acid), injuring the rice fields, and a lot of other indescribable nonsense.

We are consequently informed by Mr. Tokube Minami, Consul for Japan, that he has written a telegram stating that the Foreign Minister, Arisugawa, died on the 24th ultime. The Marquis was a near relative of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, and was father of Prince Arisugawa, who is a Marshal of Japan, and was formerly Prime Minister of the Empire. In accordance with the usual custom in Japan, Court mourning will be observed for five days. The two Clubmen intended, which did not appear, that it was the general wish to have the affair stopped. The Marquis was fully aware of what was being done, as one of the parties, a party official, had told him all about it. When the petition was handed in to him by the Magistrate, this was done to give him a chance to go and talk terms with the Yamen. The Marquis, however, did not go, and so it is still Amy. It is not known whether either of the German officers, Captain Seebelin and Müller, who were expressly engaged to take charge of these, are now in command. Captain Seebelin's engagement runs for two years more, the whole term having been fixed for him by the Vicereyn. Captain Müller has been engaged only six months, by the Vicereyn, that great official seeming to believe his Chinese officers to be capable of commanding these fine vessels.

At the regular meeting of the Eastern Mark Lodge of Hongkong, No. 264, held on the evening of the 20th ult. Wm. F. P. E. C. Grove was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Wm. Bro. G. C. Cox, Past W.M. Bro. E. R. L. P. Wm. Bro. George appointed the following officers and invited these to be present:—S.W. Bro. P. Jordan; J.W. Bro. G. C. Cox; M.O. Bro. C. Grant; S.O. Bro. W. Beffey; J.O. Bro. M. Faber; Treasurer, Bro. J. Willmett; Reg. of Marks, Bro. C. L. Gorham; Secretary, Bro. A. O. D. Gorham; Vice-Pres. Bro. J. D. Bell; Standard-Bearer, Bro. W. Oninger; Tyler, Bro. J. R. Grimble. A Past Master's jewel was voted to Bro. Bro. C. R. Bay for his services in the chair during the past year, and a Treasurer's jewel was voted to Bro. H. N. Mody, the outgoing Treasurer, who had held the office for three years. After the meeting the brethren sat down to a cold collation, and the whole of the day's funds were drunk.

The German bank Arctic, which arrived here on the 30th of January from Cardiff, had, it seems, a very narrow escape from falling into the hands of South Sea pirates, whilst in the vicinity of the Tuape Islands, in lat. 25° N. and long. 131° W. On the 15th of January, about noon, the August saw nine armed natives approach the vessel, and made signals to stop it. The Captain, when learning of Europe, had, however, specially warned not to trust these Indians, several cutlasses having already been committed there lately on ships, so he determined to let no one come on board. The ship's crew was armed, partly with revolvers, guns, and pikes, and partly with muskets, such as pieces of coal and iron. The natives amongst whom there was a very large crew, who had been captured, and were being forced to serve, were drunk.

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